

CHESHIRE COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

October 2003

A World Champion for Cheshire.

Congratulations to Karissa Hawitt on a marvellous performance to win the World Junior Mountain Running Championship in Alaska in September. Karissa's first place helped significantly in England winning silver medals in the team race. Karissa attends Helsby High School, lives in Runcorn and is a member of Warrington AC. Readers of this Newsletter will be aware of her performances in cross country championships earlier this year in winning the Cheshire, Northern and English National Under 17 titles, all by large margins. The Cheshire County AA will be presenting Karissa with an award to commemorate her achievement.

Karissa's success prompts a question as to whether other Cheshire athletes have won World Championships? Paula Radcliffe was born in Cheshire but lived in Bedfordshire from the age of 7.

North of England Senior Road Relay Championships.

Congratulations to Julian Spencer and his team from Spectrum Striders on hosting this championship event on the Birchwood Business Park on 27 September in glorious weather. The Mens 6 stage Relay saw over 100 teams (including 2 from Spectrum themselves) from all over the North of England start, while over 60 Female teams started in their 4 stage event.

Cheshire Championships.

On 20 September the North West Counties Road Relays were held in Sefton Park in Liverpool. This event was introduced several years ago initially as a combined Cheshire and Merseyside event but now also incorporates Lancashire and Greater Manchester. The individual County Championships are held within each age group race. Cheshire clubs did not enter teams in the Under 17 age groups. Seven Cheshire clubs chose to enter teams, the same as Merseyside and Greater Manchester, while 11 Lancashire clubs entered teams. The most impressive performance by a Cheshire club was in the Under 13 boys event, when the Warrington team had a very clear overall win as well as obviously winning the Cheshire title.

It will be Cheshire's turn to organise this event in September 2004. We are looking for a host club and also a Championship Secretary. Offers to the County Secretary, Brian Warren, please.

Cheshire Road Running Grand Prix.

Cheshire GP 2003 winners, Wilmslow Men's team achieved an excellent third place in the Grand Prix final which was held in conjunction with the Robin Hood half-marathon at Nottingham in mid-September. The Vale Royal Ladies team who won the Cheshire GP title were unable to make the last minute trip to Nottingham. Only 4 days notice was given confirming that the GP final would take place.

Adrian Thiemicke has agreed to organise the Grand Prix event again for 2004 with some changes. At this stage it is highly unlikely there will be a final event against

George Edwards

(Warrington AC)

We regret to announce that George Edwards, President of Warrington AC died suddenly on 19 October. George had spent a life time involved in athletics from competing for Cheshire Schools in the first ever English Schools championships in the late 1920's, through club involvement, event organiser (who remembers the early Chris Vose road races in the mid-60's?), official starter, time keeper, track judge and very much part of Warrington AC to presenting medals at a recent Warrington open meeting. Our sympathies go to his wife, family and friends in Warrington AC.

other Counties, but Cheshire County AA will present an award to the winning male and female clubs at the end of the proposed 2004 series. If any clubs have not received information on the 2004 event please contact Adrian on : roadrunning@cheshireaa.com.

North of England Inter-county Track & Field Championships.

Following a meeting of representatives from Northern Counties prior to the NoEAA AGM, it was agreed to stage the Northern Inter-county Track & Field championships again. They were not held this year for various reasons much to the disappointment of a number of athletes. Bob Lynch represented Cheshire at the discussions and reports that it will be a one-day meeting at Cudworth on Aug 21st 2004, with age groups U15, U17 and Senior, male and female, one athlete per event. Juniors will be able to compete as Seniors.

UKA Coaching Courses :

Emma Deakin of Sport Cheshire has provided an updated list of courses which include additional local courses to those given in the last Newsletter. The local courses are :

Level 1 :

15/11/03 at Sportscity, Manchester (FULL)
15/11/03 at Wavertree, Liverpool Ref No NW045
30/11/03 at Burnley Boys Club Ref No NW047
17/01/04 in North Manchester (venue?) Ref No NW042
21/02/04 at Victoria Park LC, Crewe Ref No NW046
29/02/04 at Dean Leis. Cent, Bolton Ref No NW044

Children in Athletics :

12/10/03 at Stanley Pk, Blackpool Ref No NWCIA09
16/11/03 at Sportscity (Manchester) (FULL)
23/11/03 at St Helens (NECIA10)
18/01/04 in North Manchester? (NWCIA08)

Level 2 (Core) :

22/23 November, Stanley Pk, Blackpool (NW212)
06/07 December at Sportscity (Manchester) (NW210)
13/14 December at Heywood, Manchester (NW213)
24/25 January 04 at Victoria Pk LC, Crewe (NW214)
21/22 February 04 at Sportscity (Manchester) (NW211)

Level 2 (Event Specific) :

10/11 Jan 04 at St Helens
24/25 April 04 at Sportscity (Manchester)

No Level 3 or 4 courses are yet listed in the North West.

In all cases contact Tony Airnes for an application form on 01253 358168 or tairnes@ukathletics.org.uk. It is essential to book as early as possible as courses will be cancelled if there are insufficient bookings. *That is, do not leave it to the last moment as though you were entering an athletics event!!*

Health & Safety Courses for Track & Field.

The last course for 2003 was held at Macclesfield on 20 October with over 30 attendees, mostly teachers. We will be assessing the need for more courses in the New Year.

Track & Field Event Officials Courses.

Joe Shellhorn (the Cheshire Officials Secretary) is proposing holding courses and exams for prospective Track and Field event judges, time keepers, etc in February 2004. He already has some names. If you are at all interested please contact Joe (Tel : 01244 679196).

Future Cheshire Championships.

The **Cheshire Fell Running Championship** will be held in with the Clwydian Hills event at Cilcain near Mold (North Wales) on Sunday, 2nd November - 11am start, enter on day, £3. The organisers are the North East Wales Search & Rescue organisation.

Cross Country Championships (SATURDAY, 3rd January 2004) at Knights Grange Sports Complex, Winsford with the assistance of Vale Royal AC and Vale Royal BC. Entry forms for the event will be distributed shortly to all Cheshire clubs who are registered for cross-country and to clubs in adjacent Counties who normally have Cheshire qualified entrants. The entry forms will also be on the CheshireAA web site.

Please also note that a radically new date has been proposed for the Inter-county Cross Country championships - namely 6 March 2004 at Nottingham.

Team Managers - Inter County Cross Country.

Following our appeal in the last Newsletter for some new team managers, we are pleased to record that all positions have now been filled. Thank you to the new volunteers.

When is a club vest not a vest? *Possibly when it is a crop-top!*

At the North of England Road Relays at Birchwood, a number of Ladies teams were warned that all members of the same team must wear the same design of club vest. That is, all wear conventional vests or all wear crop tops. In addition, in order to comply with the word "design" in the Rules for Competition, I would imagine a crop-top must embody all of the elements of the registered colours for the vest of that club - that is, squares, diagonals, wording and other allowable motifs. I am aware that for another reason (one of common sense and welfare of the athlete), the cross country organisations have recommended strongly that crop tops should **NOT** be worn for cross country. This is particularly important in cold weather.

Active Sport - Sports Action Group.

An open forum meeting was held prior to the last County committee meeting and was attended by club

representatives, local authority sports development officers and representatives from Sport Cheshire (including Emma Deakin who is the Athletics co-ordinator) as well as the North West Regional Development co-ordinator, Jeremy Harries. A number of issues were identified as important matters to pursue to assist in getting more youngsters to become involved in athletics

North of England Matters 3.

The debate continues, but unfortunately without much real information on the UK Athletics Modernisation proposals being provided to keep clubs informed.

After the North of England AA AGM at Trafford on 11 October an open debate was held on the future. A number of Cheshire clubs did send a representative to the meeting. The NoEAA Chairman, Mrs Pat Green, was unable to give a detailed update due to UKA's request for secrecy. The debate showed the wide range of views ranging from "independence" for North of England to fully supporting the UKA proposals (whatever the details of their "hubs" and spokes might be!). There seemed to be a majority of speakers advocating the need to work in some way with a new structure for athletics but still retaining the North of England. One "guest" present was the Chairman of the AAA of England, David Cropper, who made notes but said very little when invited to do so at the end of the debate.

On another issue the AGM asked the North of England General Committee to think again on its decision to increase membership fees from £1 to £3 per athlete with effect from 1st May 2004. The General Committee meets on 1st November. The original proposal to the April General Committee meeting by the NoEAA Hon Treasurer was for a £1 increase, but this got amended by the meeting to a £2 increase which was approved at that meeting.

Communications

We would ask those who do receive the Newsletter electronically to "send" it on to their contacts in their club and/or put a paper copy on your Club notice board.

Next County committee meetings : 17th November (NOTE : a Monday) and provisionally 17th December at the Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham at 7:30pm - hopefully we will see some new faces at them.

Editor - John Driscoll (0151 339 5341 or, preferably, jld@sunnyfield.co.uk).

Any views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Cheshire County AA.

Remember Cheshire County AA web-site for latest news and information :

www.cheshireaa.com